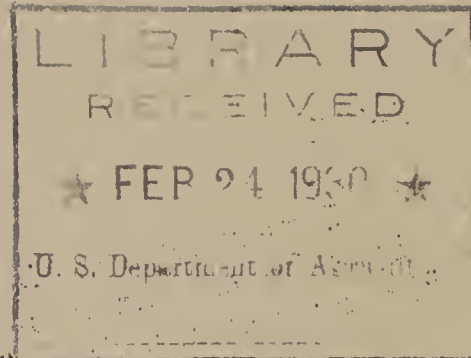


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio talk by Mr. W. R. Beattie, horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, February 11, 1930.

"I am having lunch with your husband every Tuesday." This was the statement addressed to my wife a few evenings ago by a young lady of our acquaintance. "Over the radio," she explained. "I tune in on the Farm and Home Hour, and always enjoy the instructive talks and the splendid music."

This is just one of the many favorable comments that come to us relative to the Farm and Home Hour programs. It gave me an idea, however, and every Tuesday at this hour until further notice, I am going to bring to your lunch table timely hints on flowers, ornamental plants, fruits, and vegetables that may be grown around your homes and in your gardens this spring and summer.

Our luncheon talk today is about the flower garden. Every mail is bringing copies of the most popular literature of the month - the 1930 seed and nursery catalogs - which contain splendid suggestions for the flower garden.

Perhaps you have covered your flowering plants, especially the perennials that retain green leaves during the winter, with pine boughs, straw, or leaves. Watch them and gradually remove the covering, because if the covering is too heavy or remains on too long, the early growth will be injured. Sometimes by just parting the covering a trifle and allowing ^{the} plants to peep through it you will obtain better results than if you removed it entirely. The hardy or sweet violets, for example, start growth quite early in the spring, and if you leave a mulch upon them too long the early leaves will be yellow and the plants checked in growth.

In many sections roses are bursting into new growth and they should be gone over, all winterkilled wood pruned away, and the plants put in the proper shape for spring growth. It is too early to take the winter protection off the roses in the extreme north, but in the central and southern sections it is time to begin the work of fertilizing and cultivating the rose bushes.

If you contemplate planting any hardy perpetual or tea roses this year, better study the catalogs and make up your order, but I wouldn't have the plants delivered until the soil and weather are suitable for planting them. The varieties of roses that are best adapted to the various sections differ considerably, so I would advise you to be guided largely in the selection of varieties by your local nurseryman, however,

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the Department of Agriculture can assist you in this matter, and it might be of interest to you to get a copy of our bulletin entitled "Roses for the Home." It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 750.

Herbaceous Perennials is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1381, a reprint of which has just been issued, and I believe that many of you who are fond of perennial flowering plants will want a copy of this bulletin. It contains 84 pages with a large number of illustrations and brief instructions as to how the various perennial plants should be started and grown. It is Farmers' Bulletin No. 1381.

At this time of year, or at any time before spring, the gardener or owner of ornamental evergreens and many attractive deciduous shrubs may save himself the necessity of spraying next year by picking and destroying bagworm cocoons hanging on such plants. The bagworm is a caterpillar that covers itself with a silken bag to which particles of the plant being fed upon adhere. The bag is enlarged as the caterpillar grows. The bagworm is a voracious feeder, and while apparently preferring arbor vitae, juniper (or cedar) and spruce, it will attack many other plants, both evergreen and those that lose their leaves in the fall. The female bagworm never leaves the bag, either as a caterpillar or when she becomes an adult moth, but lays her eggs inside of the bag, where they are sheltered during the winter. Thus picking and destroying the bags which hang on bushes over winter prevents the infestation and defoliation of such plants the following year.